

From: pngeggs@adelphia.net%inter2 on behalf of
pngeggs@adelphia.net[SMTP:PNGEGGS@ADELPHIA.NET]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2005 10:27:07 AM
To: NOSB Livestock
Subject: FW: Methionine
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept the following email for review concerning the Methionine issue. I apologize, the original comment was sent to Dr. Rosalie Koenig, who I understand is not a member of the Livestock committee.

Sincerely,

Jesse Laflamme

Pete and Gerry's Organics, LLC

-----Original Message-----

From: KOENIG,ROSALIE L [mailto:RLKoenig@ifas.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2005 8:33 AM
To: pngeggs@adelphia.net
Subject: RE: Methionine

Dear Jesse,

Sorry for the delayed reponse to your letter but I do not regularly come into my office at the University. The best e-mail to use is my home e-mail rosiesfarm@mindspring.com. I check it regularly. I suggest you send this comment to the NOP for the upcoming NOSB board meeting. The Livestock committee will be addressing this issue. You can go to the website and make the submission USDA.gov/nop or do a google search on the National Organic Program. Thanks for your comments. Rose Koenig

-----Original Message-----

From: Pete and Gerry's Organics [mailto:pngeggs@adelphia.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2005 5:19 PM
To: KOENIG,ROSALIE L
Subject: Methionine

Dear Dr. Koenig,

My father and I met you at the Natural products expo east, and I wanted to touch base with you about the impending Methionine sunset. We have had the opportunity to do an informal experiment with some of our flocks, lowering Methionine in the formulas. We have also had an opportunity to use a flock as a sort of control, and compare it to a flock with a very low level of Methionine. This is not a scientific study by any means, and I am just relaying our experience. Both flocks were hatched on the same day, from the same breeder flock of Hy-line Browns. Hy-lines are known to be a very timid bird, compared to an ISA Babcock or even Bovan Browns. The hens are now about 32 weeks of age. We have

found that the flock with the very low level of Methionine is very aggressive, and the birds are picking one another severely. The “control” group is not at all. I have been told by a number of poultry health and management professionals that too little Methionine in a hens diet can cause the birds to pick at one another. We cannot seem to find any other reason for this aggressiveness, and they are far more aggressive than any of our other flocks. In my time farming, I have never seen a flock turn so aggressive, so early. Production is also lower than that of the other flocks. As I said, this is not a scientific study by any means, but we spend every day with our hens, and there is something very wrong with the behavior of this flock, and we have not yet seen this with any of our other flocks.

I hope the NOSB will consider allowing the continued use of Methionine in egg layer feed rations until a true viable alternative is developed. Commercial egg laying hens are all that is available for egg farming, conventional or otherwise, and right or wrong, these hens have been selectively bred for decades to perform well from a production standpoint, and Methionine is a critical component of their health and well being.

Sincerely,

Jesse Laflamme

Pete and Gerry's Organics, LLC